Willo Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bob Cannon, President.

Officers Present: Robert Cannon (President), Brad Brauer (Vice President), Opal Wagner (Secretary), Linda Doescher (Treasurer)

Members Present: Erika Gagnon, Jeremy Schachter, Charlene Gum, Ann Bommersbach, Sandra Lefcovich, James Varela, Aaron Searles, Patrice Wappel

Absent: Kush Govani

Introduction of Board Members

Introduction of Guests: Julia Palazzi, Chandler neighborhood; Ginger Torres, Mayor’s Office

Opal Wagner, Board Secretary, presented the May minutes and made a motion to approve the minutes. Brad Brauer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Doescher presented the financial report. Chase checking balance is $32,000 Edward Jones account balance is $97,000. Brad Brauer moved to approve the financial report. Jeremy Schachter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Streets and Traffic Safety Committee update: Opal Wagner thanked the neighbors who attended the May 21st meeting with City of Phoenix Streets Transportation Dept. staff, including Chris Manno, project manager for the 3rd/5th Avenue North re-design project. A 90% design meeting will be held in mid-to-late August. Please check willophx.com and Willo’s Facebook page for updates. In response to residents’ concerns, the Streets and Transportation Dept. plans to conduct a speed study on 3rd Ave. north of McDowell in late June- early July and collect more comprehensive data in the fall as well to determine any possible changes that need to be made to reduce speed.

Zoning update: Tom Doescher reported a meeting had been held at Encanto Community Church between Aaron Klusman owner of the lot where the proposed Raising Cane’s drive-through restaurant is planned, and representatives from nearby neighborhoods, but that no resolution was reached. Tom encouraged neighbors to attend the Zoning Adjustment hearing regarding Raising Cane’s on June 17, 2021 at 1:30p.m. The meeting is online, and Tom will post links for registering to attend on willophx.com and Willo’s Facebook page. Board President Bob Cannon said he will attend the hearing on behalf of the neighborhood and pursuant to the letter previously approved by the Board.

Inside Willo update: Sandra Lefcovich reported Inside Willo will be on hiatus for July and August, but the deadline for submitting items for the Sept. issue is July 15th. Sandra thanked all neighbors who contribute to and deliver Inside Willo every month.

Ginger Torres from Mayor Kate Gallego’s Office introduced herself and explained she is working on outreach to neighborhood leaders as part of Mayor Gallego’s effort to re-engage with neighborhoods. Ginger is visiting neighborhoods and reporting issues back to the Mayor’s Office. (Ginger Sykes-Torres Community Relations Coordinator, Office of Mayor Kate Gallego, 602.262.7111, ginger.sykes-torres@phoenix.gov)

By-laws Committee update: Ann Bommersbach made a motion for the Board to approve the Proposed By-laws which were presented at the May meeting and published on willophx.com and Inside Willo. Erika Gagnon seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ann then proceeded with a vote by opted-in Willo Neighborhood Association members who were present at the meeting. The members voted as follows:

In favor:

Tom Doescher

Cassandra and Jack Larsen

Bob and Diana Herman

Teresa Fontana

Opposed: None

The approved By-laws will be published.

Celebrate Willo update: Erika Gagnon reported she and Kush Govani are working on details for a neighborhood celebration on Sat. Oct. 30,2021 from 5:30-7 pm. Ideas include a movie at 7pm in Walton Park, Willo Kids Club costume parade, painting pumpkins, decoration/costume/baking competitions, a cake walk, Home Tour tickets sales, food trucks, etc. Details will be worked on at their meeting next week.

Blockwatch update: Brad Brauer reported that due to Phoenix P.D. staffing issues we may be losing our Community Action Officers for a while until staffing shortages can be addressed. Brad will submit an article on the need for Blockwatch captains in the Sept. issue of Inside Willo. There was a fire in the alley between Encanto and Cypress a week or so ago. That is the only fire reported in Willo. Please report any additional information to Phoenix P.D. and Willo Blockwatch.

Social Committee update: Bob Cannon reported that Nikki Armstrong wants everyone to know she is planning Willo Happy Hours to resume in the fall, and she needs a host for Sept. We expect happy hours to continue as normal moving forward.

Social Media Committee: Jeremy Schachter reported engagement rules are posted for Willo’s Facebook page and that Willo’s FB page is a positive place for Willo neighbors to share information. Six admins share in the responsibility of monitoring of Willo’s FB page. FB is changing its rules on group pages and the committee will be assessing how this may affect Willo’s page. Sandra Lefcovich reported the committee is also going to look at Instagram and coordinate it with Willo’s FB page.

Bob Cannon reported that beginning in Sept., 2021 the Willo Board will return to in-person meetings at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. He said some neighbors have voiced they would like to continue the option of attending the meetings via Zoom. We have not worked out a strategy for continuing Zoom meetings, but as long as there is enough participation and interest, we will do our best to make it happen.

Home Tour Committee: Brad Brauer reported the date of Willo Home Tour 2022 has been moved to the third Sun. in Feb. to avoid conflicting with the Super Bowl. Teresa Fontana reported that 7 houses are confirmed for the home tour thus far, plus the fire station.

Willo Architectural Book: Diana Herman reported that the Willo book project committee is having a great time pulling Willo together and sharing Willo stories and history in preparing the book. She reported they have pre-sold 126 books and there will be a preview/unveiling in the September Inside Willo.

Old Business:

Brad Brauer reported the solar lighting in Walton Park will be repaired Monday by the City of Phoenix.

Bob Cannon reported that food truck Wednesdays at Walton Park will continue throughout the summer.

New Business: None.

The next meeting will be Sept. 9, 2021.

Brad Brauer made a motion to adjourn. Sandra Lefcovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.